

Application No. 10/642,410

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An apparatus for folding sheets, comprising:
a first crease roll, disposed on a first axle;
a second crease roll, disposed on a second axle;
the first crease roll and second crease roll being arranged to form a nip therebetween;
a first drive member disposed on the first axle;
a second drive member disposed on the second axle, engaging the first drive member; and
a slip element operatively disposed between the second drive member and the second axle.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a movable blade for pushing at least one sheet through the nip, thereby folding the sheet.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first drive member is a first gear and the second drive member is a second gear engaging the first gear.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the slip element is a slip clutch.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the slip clutch includes a Belleville washer.

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6. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~operating~~ folding a plurality of sheets using an apparatus including a first roll and a second roll arranged to form a nip therebetween, comprising:

transmitting a torque from the first roll to the second roll;

~~urging at least one sheet~~ the plurality of sheets through the nip, thereby ~~folding the sheet~~ sheets into a folded set of sheets; and

limiting the transmitted torque as a result of an effective change in frictional coefficient between the first roll and the second roll, thereby limiting sliding between sheets as the sheets pass through the nip.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising providing a first drive member associated with the first roll and a second drive member associated with the second roll, the second drive member engaging the first drive member.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the first drive member is a first gear and the second drive member is a second gear engaging the first gear.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, the limiting step including permitting a slip between the second drive member and the second roll.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, the limiting step including permitting a slip between the first drive member and the first roll.

11. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising urging a plurality of sheets through the nip simultaneously, thereby folding the sheets.

12. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising advancing a blade to urge the at least one sheet through the nip.